For development of Belgaum Airport, the GoK has agreed to provide 370 acres of additional land free of cost to Airports Authority of India (AAI). This airport is being developed by AAI.

**New Civil Aviation Policy**

304. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government recently asked the Group of Ministers (GoM) to review the current guidelines in which airlines were required to adhere to route dispersal guidelines (RDG) to connect the remote areas in the Jammu and Kashmir, North-Eastern Region, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by GoM; and

(c) what new measures Government propose to undertake under its New National Civil Aviation Policy, including incentives to encourage Civil Aviation Area in the country, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The draft National Civil Aviation Policy is presently under consideration of a Group of Ministers (GoM). However, no specific issues/proposals have been referred for the consideration of GoM.

(c) Matter is under consideration of the Government.

**Manpower in aviation industry**

305. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the growth in the aviation industry has not been able to match upto the availability of talent leading to high premium on skilled manpower;

(b) if so, how we propose to get about 2000-2500 pilots annually when our existing training institutes produce about 300 pilots annually; and

(c) similarly, how the requirement of about 40,000 cabin crew is going to be met in the coming five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) In view of the recent boom in civil aviation in the country, shortage of skilled manpower is being felt in the industry.

(b) The Government has taken various steps to reduce the gap between demand and supply of skilled pilots. These include conditionally increasing the age-limit to 65 years for exercising the privileges of their licences for commercial transport operations under prescribed conditions for pilots, upgradation and modernisation of training infrastructure of Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) to enhance its training capacity, setting up of a world class flying training institute at Gondia, Maharashtra and assistance to flying clubs by allocating trainer aircraft through

Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)/Aero Club of India (ACI). Besides, DGCA has approved a total of 26 flying training institutes (including IGRUA) in the country for imparting Commercial Pilot Licence (CPL) training.

(c) Recruitment, training etc. of cabin crew is done by the respective airlines as per their requirement.

**Construction of airport in Sikkim**

306. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any project for the construction of airport in Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of steps taken so far by Government to provide air-services to and from Gangtok, Sikkim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Detailed project report has been prepared by Airports Authority of India (AAI) and submitted to State Government of Sikkim for construction of a Greenfield airport at Pakyong, 33 km South West of Gangtok. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 320 crores.

(c) Government have laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. Subject to these guidelines, airlines are free to provide air services to any place depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability.

According to these guidelines, all scheduled operators are required to deploy in the North Eastern region, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep (Category-II routes) at least 10% of their deployed capacity on trunk routes (Category-I routes). Further, at least 10% of the capacity thus required to be deployed on Category-II routes, is required to be deployed for connectivity exclusively within these regions.

Gangtok, Sikkim is being air-serviced from Bagdogra Airport (West Bengal) which is at a distance of about 125 km. Pawan Hans is providing daily helicopter services between Bagdogra and Gangtok.

**Shortage of air traffic controllers**

307. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is facing shortage of Air Traffic Controllers (ATC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to bridge this gap?